

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-18 and 20, 21 and 23-32 were previously pending in this application. By way of the proposed amendment Claims 1, 14, 20, 21, 23, 26 and 30 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-18 and 20, 21 and 23-32 are still pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite testing for the presence of one or more pathogens within the oral cavity with a culture, which has been held allowable in a previous Office Action and Claim 20 has been amended to recite more specially that laser radiation is applied to periodontal tissue that is outside of a periodontal pocket, such that the laser radiation passed through a volume of the periodontal tissue and eradicates bacteria within the periodontal pocket. The amendment to Claim 20 provides further clarification, definition and/or meaning to elements previously recited in the Claim 20. Accordingly, this amendment to Claim 20 should not be deemed as raising new issues or as constituting new matter.

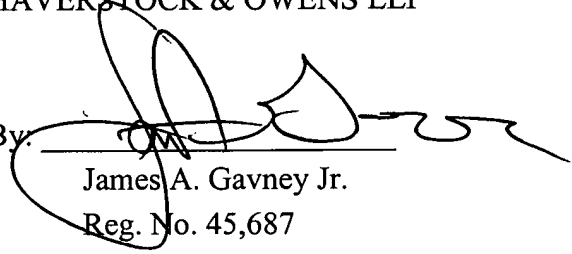
Prior art of record does not teach the features of testing with a culture or eradicating bacteria in a periodontal pocket with a laser radiation through a volume of periodontal tissue that is outside of the periodontal pocket.

Remaining Claims 14, 21, 23, 26 and 30 have been amended to correct dependencies and to be consistent with amendments made to the independent Claims 1 and 20. No new subject matter has been introduced by way of these amendments.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-18, 20, 21 and 23-32 are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss them so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

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By: 
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